

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 13, 2009, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 19-22 and 25, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3, 6-15, 19-22 and 25 remain in this application, claims 2, 4, 5, 23 and 24 have been canceled, claims 16-18 have been withdrawn, and new claim 26 has been added to the application.

Claims 1, 4, 9, and 13 were objected to due to informalities. Claim 4 has been canceled and claims 9 and 13 have been amended to delete the redundant subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the redundant reference to the marker group but the language regarding the multiple epitope regions with identical amino acid sequences has been retained. Applicants believe that this language is necessary to clarify that the peptide group P comprises multiple identical epitope regions or multiple peptide groups P are present which comprise identical epitope regions. Applicants point out claim 14, which indicates that the polypeptide sequence P comprises a single epitope region or multiple, identical epitope regions. In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-15, 19-22 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The claims have been amended to clarify the language pointed out in the office action. Regarding the language in claim 14, P can include a single epitope or multiple identical epitopes. Therefore, the identical epitope regions can be within one peptide group P or can be distributed among several peptide groups P. In view of the above amendments and explanation, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1, 3, 6-15, 19-22 and 25-26 are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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